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LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text in Russian, of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the events taking place in and around Nagorny Karabakh.

I kindly request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council. According to the latest information, Armenian aggression against my country continues in full force. Armenian military forces are now operating in the territory of Azerbaijan and attacking the town of Lachin, which is not within the Nagorny Karabakh area.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC

Units of the Armenian army which have been moved into Nagorny Karabakh, together with terrorist formations, have committed another criminal act in the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic by seizing the last Azerbaijani populated settlement in Nagorny Karabakh - the town of Lachin. After blocking the Shusha-Lachin road, units of the Armenian army have subjected the town of Lachin to a massive artillery bombardment directly from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. The aim of the Armenian military formations has been to consolidate the establishment of a corridor to link Nagorny Karabakh to the Republic of Armenia in territory seized from Azerbaijan. What is taking place, in fact, is open military aggression by one State Member of the United Nations, which is also a member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, against another member of those same international organizations - the Azerbaijani Republic, which has been recognized by more than 110 States in the world.

The aforementioned acts demonstrate the inability of the leadership of the Republic of Armenia to carry on a civilized political dialogue and give grounds for believing that it is pursuing an aggressive policy. After signing the tripartite statement on a cease-fire along the whole Azerbaijani-Armenian frontier and in Nagorny Karabakh on 8 May 1992 at the meeting organized in Tehran on the initiative of Iran, the Armenian side is in fact pursuing other goals. That meeting was essential to it in order to conceal its true intentions from the world community. There is no doubt that the leadership of Armenia and President L. Ter-Petrosyan himself, on arriving in Tehran, had prior knowledge of this planned campaign of flagrant depredation.

The hypocritical policy pursued by the leadership of Armenia in the sphere of international relations could have serious consequences, in the first place for the Republic of Armenia itself.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the Azerbaijani Republic considers the seizure of Shusha and the mass bombardment of Lachin as a unilateral violation by the Republic of Armenia of the agreements reached at Tehran and, in this connection, it renounces all the obligations it has undertaken. This event once again demonstrates that the Government of Armenia, which is following a path of continuing gross violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and which is endeavouring by the use of force to link Nargorny Karabakh to Armenia, remains true to its aggressive policy, which runs counter to the rules of international law, and this makes it essential to review the question of Armenia's membership in those organizations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic states that the Azerbaijani Republic retains its right to use all possible means to eliminate the consequences of this aggressive policy, which is directed against its territorial integrity and threatens its independence, and it considers it essential to bring this matter to the attention of the United Nations, all foreign States and the world community.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic also considers it essential to point out that the Republic has sufficient force and the means to implement appropriate measures.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic